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Contributors

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SEAHAM HARBOUR

Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1899, 8

OF

The Medical Officer of Health.



SEAHAM HARBOUR :

W. J. Young, Printer, Caxton Buildings, North Railway Street.

1899.



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To the Members of the Seaham Harbour Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In compliance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board, I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1898.

The population, estimated to June 30th, 1898, was 10,150; area, 1,080 acres.

378 births have been registered during the past year, equal to a birth rate of 37·2 per thousand, as against 39·7 in 1897, and 43·5 in 1896. Of these births 195 were male and 183 female.

During the year 203 deaths of persons belonging to this district occurred, including 9 in Easington Workhouse, 2 in Sedgefield Asylum, and 1 in Sunderland Infirmary. This gives a death rate of 20·0 as compared with 22·4 in 1897, and 21·8 in 1896.

17 deaths were due to consumption, equal to a rate of 1·6, as against 1·9 in the previous year.

The respiratory death rate was 3·6, as compared with 3·2 in 1897.

31 deaths were due to zymotic diseases, giving a rate of 3·0, which is higher than the previous year, when it was 2·6. This is owing chiefly to the number of deaths from diarrhoea and whooping cough, 26 out of the 31 having been caused by these diseases.

There were 2 deaths from scarlatina and 3 from typhoid fever.

70 deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving an infant mortality rate of 185·4 per 1,000 births, which compares very favourably with the previous year when it was 214·1. Mothers generally seem to have a better idea of how infants should be fed, and I am glad to say that the custom of feeding them on "boiley," fat bacon, and water adulterated with condensed milk is gradually dying out.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

68 cases of infectious diseases were notified as against 63 in 1897.

Scarlet fever was as usual more or less prevalent during the year, 26 cases having been notified. This compares favourably with 40 in 1897 and 80 in 1896. The type was mild and only 2 deaths occurred. One case of malignant scarlatina imported from Sunderland was at once removed to the isolation hospital, and no other case occurred in the house.

There has been no epidemic of measles. A few cases occurred which were carefully isolated.

20 cases of typhoid were notified, of which 3 proved fatal, as compared with 11 cases and 2 deaths in 1897. The disease was most prevalent during the months of August, September, and October, when 12 cases occurred.

No case of typhus, diphtheria, or puerperal fever has been notified.

2 cases of scarlatina and 6 of typhoid were removed to the isolation hospital.

As I find the public generally have no accurate knowledge of what should be done to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, I have drawn up some rules for their guidance, and would suggest that a copy be sent to every house from which a case of infectious disease has been notified.

GENERAL SANITATION.

A sample of water was sent to Mr. Stock, County Analyst, who replied as follows:—

“I hereby certify that I have analysed a sample of water marked “Water for analysis,” which I received on 10th December, 1898, and that I find as follows:—

Colour and appearance in two-foot tube .. Yellowish and clear
 Odour when heated to 100 degrees Fahr. .. Earthy

	Grains per Gall.
Chlorine as Chlorides	2·1350
Nitrogen as Nitrates	·1210
Ammonia	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	·0016
Oxygen Absorption	·0308
Injurious Metals	None
Total solid matter dried at 220 degrees Fahr.	29·4000

Microscopical Examination { Minute deposit from half gallon, consisting of numerous diatoms and desmids, a few linen fibres and starch granules

OBSERVATIONS.

Judging from the colour of this sample, and the results of the microscopical examination, it appears highly probable that there is some admixture of surface water in the sample. It is practically free from sewage matter. The question of its fitness for drinking purposes must be determined by its origin. If it is collected within an inhabited area the presence of unfiltered surface water at once unfits it for human consumption.”

W. F. KEATING STOCK, F.I.C.

As the above report was not considered quite satisfactory, a copy was sent to the Water Company for their consideration.

The dairies and lodging houses have been regularly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

The ashpits have been regularly emptied, the work being done at night, which is very satisfactory, as heaps of refuse are no longer to be seen lying in the back streets.

24 Ashpit-privies have been replaced by small ashclosets and 31 by waterclosets.

New bye-laws have been adopted.

I am, Gentlemen,
 Your obedient Servant,

L. G. DILLON.

BIRTHS.

Months.	Male.	Female.	Monthly Totals.
January	9	28	37
February	18	18	36
March	25	14	39
April	12	12	24
May	14	17	31
June	23	11	34
July	13	15	28
August	13	15	28
September	12	15	27
October	20	11	31
November	17	13	30
December	19	14	33
YEARLY TOTALS ..	195	183	378

DEATHS AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Months.	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 Year and under 5	5 Years and under 15	15 Years and under 25	25 Years and under 65	65 Years and up- wards
January	14	3	2	2		6	1
February	19	3		3		7	6
March	21	7	2		3	7	2
April	11	5	1			3	2
May	8	3		1	2	1	1
June	11	4	2	1		3	1
July	10	3	1	1	1	1	3
August	22	10	4	1		4	3
September	26	15	5		1	3	2
October	21	8	3			7	3
November	15	3	2	1	1	3	5
December	25	6	6	3	1	5	4
YEARLY TOTALS ..	203	70	28	13	9	50	33

DEATHS, WITH CERTAIN OF THE SPECIAL CAUSES.

Months.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentry.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis,	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Monthly Totals.
January ..						1	3	4		6	14
February ..	1				1	2	3	3		9	19
March ..		1		1		3	2	1	1	12	21
April ..						2	2	2		5	11
May.. ..						1	2			5	8
June ..			1			2	2			6	11
July.. ..				1		3		1		5	10
August ..	1			6				1		14	22
September ..				11		2	5	1		7	26
October ..		2	1	2		1	6			9	21
November ..							3	3		9	15
December ..			3				9	1	1	11	25
Yearly Tot'ls	2	3	5	21	1	17	37	17	2	98	203

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

CASES NOTIFIED.

Months.	No. of Cases Notified.	CAUSES.		
		Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.
January	6	2	4	
February	6	2	4	
March.. ..	7	1	5	1
April	4	1	1	2
May	5		5	
June	3		3	
July	6		6	
August	6	1	4	1
September	4	1	1	2
October	12	2	1	9
November	7	2	2	3
December	2			2
Yearly Totals ..	68	12	36	20

CASES NOTIFIED AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Months.	No. of Cases.	1 Year and under 5	5 Years and under 15	15 Years and under 25	25 Years and under 65
January	6	1	1	1	3
February	6	3	1		2
March	7	2	3		2
April	4	1	2	1	
May	5	2	2		1
June	3		2		1
July	6		5	1	
August	6	2	2	1	1
September	4	1	1	1	1
October	12		2	2	8
November	7		3	3	1
December	2		2		
YEARLY TOTALS ..	68	12	26	10	20

SUMMARY of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year.

1. Public Health Acts.		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions .. Structural Defects .. Overcrowding ..	2	2
Lodging-houses ..	.. .. .	2	2
Dairies and Milkshops..	.. .. .	2	2
Cowsheds..	.. .. .	1	1
Bakehouses ..	.. .. .	1	1
Slaughter-houses	.. .. .	3	3
*Ashpits and Privies	.. .. .	82	82
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	.. .. .	
Waterclosets ..	.. .. .	6	6
Defective Yard Paving	.. .. .	19	19
House Drainage	Defective Traps..	18	18
	No Disconnection from Sewers		
	Other Faults ..	17	17
Water Supply ..	.. .. .	
Pigsties ..	.. .. .	3	3
Animals Improperly Kept	.. .. .	10	10
Offensive Trades	.. .. .	
Smoke Nuisances	.. .. .	
Other Nuisances	.. .. .	12	12
TOTALS ..		178	178

* Number of ashpit-privies that have been replaced by small ashclosets or by waterclosets—24.

	Number.
2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.	
Formal Notices served.. .. .	
Dwellings dealt with	2
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice	
Closing Orders applied for	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates ..	
Dwellings permanently closed	
3. Water, Food, and Drugs.	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ..	1
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	
Seizure of Unwholesome Food	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	
Samples of Food found Adulterated ..	
4. Precautions against Infectious Disease.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	12
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	19
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	
Prosecution for exposure of infected persons or things	
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	

<p>1</p>	<p>1. <i>Introduction</i></p>
<p>2</p>	<p>2. <i>History of the Working Classes</i> <i>1830-1850</i></p>
<p>3</p>	<p>3. <i>Water, Fuel, and Drugs</i></p>
<p>4</p>	<p>4. <i>Transition to the Industrial Revolution</i></p>